

Office of Environmental Compliance

Five Year Strategic Plan

July, 2000 - June 2005

Agency Number: 13-851
Program: Environmental Compliance Program
Program Authorization: La. R.S. 30:2011(C)(1)(c)

Vision

The Environmental Compliance Program is committed to the protection of public health and the environmental resources of Louisiana, through the processes of surveillance and enforcement, to sustain and enhance the quality of life for its citizens.

Mission

The mission of the Environmental Compliance Program is to ensure that public health and safety and the environmental resources of Louisiana for the citizens of the State are protected by conducting inspections of permitted and non-permitted facilities, responding to environmental incidents such as unauthorized releases, spills and citizen complaints, and by providing compliance assistance to the regulated community when appropriate. This program establishes a multimedia compliance approach; creates a uniform approach for compliance activities; assigns accountability and responsibility to appropriate parties; and provides standardized response training for all potential responders, which consists of the Surveillance and the Enforcement Divisions. The activities of the OEC are surveillance and enforcement. The Environmental Compliance Program provides for vigorous prosecution and timely resolution of enforcement actions.

Philosophy

The Environmental Compliance Program will endeavor to operate in a fair and consistent manner to achieve compliance with environmental regulations to ensure protection of our valuable environmental resources and public health. The Environmental Compliance Program will adopt the following principles to accomplish a successful environmental compliance program:

- ?? Strive for a good working relationship with the public and the regulated community through better education regarding environmental problems.
- ?? Operate within the constraints of the law in a fair, objective, and consistent manner that maintains high professional and ethical standards.
- ?? Incorporate non-confrontational methods and approaches to problem solving.

Goal

The goal of the Environmental Compliance Program is to operate in an open, fair, and consistent manner; to strive for and assist in attaining environmental compliance in the regulated community; and, to protect environmental resources and the public health and safety of the citizens of the State of Louisiana.

Objective 1:

The Environmental Compliance Program, through the surveillance activity will annually inspect facilities targeted for inspection by OEC and approved by the EPA and by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) through the development and use of multimedia teams to achieve and/or maintain environmental integrity between July, 2000 and June 30, 2005. This will include inspection of facilities relative to air emissions, solid waste, water quality, hazardous waste and underground storage tanks, tire dealers, radiation licensed facilities, and priority projects related to asbestos and lead-based paint hazards.

Facilities are selected for inspections, based upon targeting and prioritization strategies for each media, to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations and to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Perform facility compliance inspections of targeted facilities for air, water, hazardous waste, solid waste, radiation, and underground storage tanks annually.
- 1.2 Audit Risk Management Plans to evaluate the adequacy of accident prevention strategies.
- 1.3 Operate and maintain the ambient sampling stations statewide for the collection of air quality, water quality and mercury data.
- 1.4 Provide requisite compliance data for appropriate EPA databases.
- 1.5 Ensure that 97% of Underground Storage Tanks are in compliance with EPA/State December 22, 1998 requirements to upgrade, close or replace substandard tanks (EPA Strategic Plan Goal).
- 1.6 Ensure that 70% of Underground Storage Tanks are in compliance with EPA/State leak detection requirements (EPA Strategic Plan Goal).

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Percentage of targeted facilities inspected annually by category.

Objective 2:

The Environmental Compliance Program, through the surveillance activity, will address all reported environmental incidents and citizen complaints, with 95% being addressed within five days of receipt of notification between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 2.1 Respond to unauthorized releases in an expedient manner and ensure an acceptable level of clean up.
- 2.2 Provide timely response to citizen complaints of environmental violations.
- 2.3 Assign personnel at a regional level to minimize time spent in travel and build sufficient flexibility into scheduling to allow for the high priority activities of response to environmental incidents and citizen complaints.
- 2.4 Maintain “on-call” response procedures that provide for responder availability on a twenty-four hours per day, seven-days per week basis.

Performance Indicator

Efficiency: Percentage of environmental incidents and citizen complaints addressed within five days of receiving notification.

Objective 3:

The Environmental Compliance Program, through the surveillance activity, will demonstrate successful accomplishment of 100% of the applicable objectives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) exercise objectives between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 3.1 Maintain currency of the Louisiana Peacetime Radiological Response Plan with periodic revisions/updates of the document.
- 3.2 Maintain 24-hour readiness to respond to nuclear power plant incidents by providing radiological emergency response training to Surveillance staff.
- 3.3 Maintain radiation survey equipment, air radiation sampling equipment, personnel exposure recording devices and supplies of thyroid blocking drugs.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Percentage of emergency planning objectives successfully demonstrated.

Objective 4:

The Environmental Compliance Program, through the surveillance activity, will annually operate and maintain the ambient air monitoring stations and collect monthly ambient water data on 95% of surface water subsegments from targeted watersheds between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 4.1 Operate and maintain the ambient air monitoring stations statewide for collection of air quality data that can be compared to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- 4.2 Collect data on the quality of state waters that can be compared to State Water Quality Standards by sampling all ambient water subsegments in the state on a five-year court scheduled Erotation by targeting two or three watersheds per year.

- 4.3 Sample targeted water bodies for mercury content of fish tissue.
- 4.4 Collect samples from four atmospheric deposition sample sites.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Cumulative percentage of waterbody subsegments monitored and sampled.

Objective 5:

The Environmental Compliance Program, through the enforcement activity, will issue 90% of the appropriate enforcement actions within prescribed time periods required by appropriate guidelines between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2005.

Strategies:

- 5.1 Issue Cease and Desist Orders within 48 hours of finalization of investigation.
- 5.2 Issue Penalty Assessments within the prescribed time period for completion of the investigation.
- 5.3 Issue Compliance Orders within the prescribed time period for documentation confirming continued non-compliance.
- 5.4 Provide requisite enforcement data for appropriate EPA databases.

Performance Indicator

Efficiency: Percent of enforcement actions issued within the prescribed time periods.